GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:4
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011
SCHEMES FOR HANDLOOM WEAVERS
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Singh Shri Vijay Bahadur

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of handloom weavers in various States in the country and the details of the schemes being implemented by the Government for the development of handloom sector in the country including the funds allocated/released and utilised thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of financial assistance/relief package for debt-ridden weavers and the number of weavers benefited, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the number of weavers and their families being covered under health insurance scheme, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the condition of the weavers and ensuring optimum utilisation of funds released for the benefit of the weavers?

Answer

(MINISTER OF TEXTILES)(SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.4 FOR 01.08.2011.

(a): 1. As per Third Census of Handloom Weavers (2009-10), there are 43.31 lakh handloom weavers and allied workers across the country. The State-wise details of handloom weavers and allied workers is annexed at Annexure 'A'.

2. The Government of India is implementing following schemes for overall development of the handloom sector in the country:-

(i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme

(ii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

(iii) Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme

(iv) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

(v) Mill Gate Price Scheme

3. The scheme-wise fund released during the last 3 years and current year 2011-12 is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (upto 30.06.2011)
		B.E.	Exp.		
1.	Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS)	108.98	115.57	168.00	164.70 39.79
2.	Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme (M&EPS)	45.00	49.60	58.59	55.60 7.61

3. Diversified Handloom Development Scheme (DHDS)	16.00	13.72	17.78	24.10	9.69
4. Mill Gate Price Scheme (MGPS)	29.59	30.60	65.00	55.60	19.23
5. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS)	124.87	119.85	116.14	160.00	19.62
Total	324.44	329.29	425.11	460.00	95.94

State-wise releases are made under only two schemes i.e. Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS) and Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS). Details of State-wise releases and utilization for the last 3 years and current year 2011-12 are annexed at Annexures "B" and "C".

(b): Union Finance Minister, during annual budget speech on 28.2.2011, announced a financial package of Rs. 3000 crore in phases for handloom sector, to be implemented through NABARD. The initiative is expected to benefit 15000 cooperative societies and about 3 lakh handloom weavers. The Budget announcement envisages that the details of the scheme have to be worked out by the Ministry of Textiles in consultation with Planning Commission. Accordingly, the draft Financial Package has been referred to the Planning Commission. The proposed Financial Package inter-alia includes(i) recapitalization assistance to weavers cooperative societies including waiver of loan, (ii) waiver of individual weavers' loans, (iii) strengthening of weavers cooperative societies, (iv) interest subvention of 4% on expected credit off take, and (v) credit guarantee mechanism.

(c): The State wise number of weavers and their families covered under Health Insurance scheme is annexed at Annexure 'D'.

(d): The Government of India is implementing 5 schemes during the Eleventh Plan keeping in mind the welfare measures and providing need based interventions for holistic and sustainable development of the handloom sector. Two of these schemes are implemented through the State Governments.

(i) Integrated Handloom Development Scheme provides need based inputs to clusters of 300−500 handlooms or Groups of 10−100 weavers for making them self sustainable by providing them financial assistance for margin money, new looms and accessories, skill upgradation, marketing opportunities and for construction of worksheds etc.So far, 542 Cluster projects and 1789 Group Approach projects have been sanctioned during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme provides platform to the weavers and their organizations to participate in the domestic as well as international trade events and sell their products directly to the buyers. So far, 2527 marketing events have been sanctioned during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme: This comprises of two separate schemes viz. the Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) for providing Health Insurance to the Handloom weavers and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) for providing Life Insurance Cover in case of natural/ accidental death, total/partial disability due to accident. Under Health Insurance Scheme, 16.11 lakh families of handloom weavers and workers were covered during the policy period of 2009-10. During the policy period 2010-11, 7.07 lakh weavers' families have been covered so far out of the proposed 17.97 lakh families of handloom weavers and workers. Under MGBBY, 5.11 lakh handloom weavers were enrolled during 2009-10 and 5.21 lakh handloom weavers were enrolled during 2010-11.

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme: This scheme makes available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to the eligible handloom agencies to facilitate regular supply of basic raw material to the handloom weavers and to optimize their employment potential. During the Eleventh Plan, so far, 3893.62 lakh kg of yarn valuing Rs. 3783.58 crore has been supplied to the handloom weavers under the Scheme.

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme: This scheme provides assistance for technological and skill-upgradation of weavers for design and product development through 25 Weavers' Service Centres and 05 Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology all over the country to improve the productivity and earnings of the handloom weavers.

In addition to the above schemes, Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) has been introduced in 2008-09 with an objective to empower handloom weavers and build their capacity to enhance competitiveness of their products in the domestic as well as global market in a sustainable and reliant manner. The scheme covers clearly identifiable geographical locations with at least 25,000 looms in which Government of India's financial support would be up to Rs.70 crore.Four such Mega Handloom Clusters have been sanctioned so far at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Sivasagar (Assam), Virudhunagar (Tamilnadu) and Murshidabad (West Bengal).

In order to provide relief to the silk weavers due to very high prices of domestic as well as imported raw silk,on the initiatives of the

Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Finance has reduced the existing basic customs duty on raw silk from 30% to 5%.This reduction in customs duty has resulted in fall of the prices of raw silk from approximately Rs. 3000/- per kg to Rs. 2500/- per kg and has stabilized the prices of both domestic and imported raw silk.

Regular monitoring of these schemes is being done through field visits, calling physical and financial progress reports and quarterly meetings with the State Directors in-charge of Handlooms so as to ensure optimum utilization of funds for the benefit of handloom weavers.